APPENDIX A
Serial No.: 09/640,838
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4. (Twice Amended) The conjugate according to claim [15] 16, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is an antibiotic.

5. (Twice Amended) The conjugate according to claim [15] 16, wherein the chemotherapeutic agent is an antimetabolite.

[14.] 15. (Amended) A conjugate useful for treating a disease selected from the group consisting of tumoral, infectious, and autoimmune disease in a subject comprising:

an active substance useful for treating said disease selected from the group consisting of a chemotherapeutic agent and a photoactive compound;

a native human [protein] serum albumin that is not regarded as exogenous by the subject; and

a linker linking said active substance to said [protein] albumin, wherein said linker can be cleaved intracellularly, and wherein said linker comprises an azo group.

[16.] 17. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [14] 15, wherein several active substances useful for treating said disease are linked to said [protein] albumin through one or more linkers.

[17.] 18. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [14] 15, wherein the linker has the following structure:

-Y-R-N=N-

wherein:

R is an aromatic compound, and

Y is selected from the group consisting of C(O), $S(O)_2$, P(O)OH and As(O)OH.

[19.] 20. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [14] 15, wherein the conjugate comprises 4-aminophenylsulphonic acid or 4-aminophenylphosphonic acid [linked to] and albumin [, an azo group being present as linker].

[20.] 21. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [14] 15, wherein the conjugate comprises cytodine [linked to albumin, a linker containing an azo group being present].

[21.] 22. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [14] 15, wherein the conjugate comprises tetracycline [linked to albumin, a linker containing an azo group being present].

[22.] 23. (Amended) A process for the preparation of the conjugate according to Claim [14] 15, comprising binding an active substance selected from the group consisting of a chemotherapeutic agent and a photoactive compound useful for treating a disease selected from the group consisting of tumoral, infectious, and autoimmune disease to a native human [protein] serum albumin that is not regarded as exogenous by the subject, by means of a linker containing an azo group.

[23.] 24. (Amended) A method of treating a disease selected from the group consisting of tumoral, infectious, and autoimmune disease comprising administering a conjugate according to Claim [14] 15 in an amount effective to ameliorate the symptoms of said disease.

[24.] 24. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [15] 16, wherein several active substances are present.

[25.] 26. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [15] 16, wherein the linker has the following structure:

-Y-R-N=N-

wherein:

R is an aromatic compound, and

Y is a group selected from the group consisting of C(O), $S(O)_2$, P(O)OH and As(O)OH.

[26.] 27. (Amended) The conjugate according to Claim [16] 17, wherein the linker has the following structure:

-Y-R-N=N-

wherein:

R is an aromatic compound, and

Y is a group selected from the group consisting of C(O), $S(O)_2$, P(O)OH and As(O)OH.

[29.] 30. (Amended) The process of Claim [22] 23, wherein said binding comprises the formation of [a chemical bond selected from the group consisting of an azo group or] an ester.

[30.] 31. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim 4 wherein the antibiotic comprises a tetracycline.

[31.] 32. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim 5 wherein the antimetabolite comprises a methotrexate.

[32.] 33. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim 5 wherein the antimetabolite comprises a sulfonamide.

[33.] 34. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim 5 wherein the antimetabolite comprises a nucleoside that inhibits the replication or transcription of a nucleic acid into which it is incorporated.

[34.] 35. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [14] 15 wherein the active substance comprises an acid group.

[35.] 36. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [34] 35 wherein the acid group is selected from the group consisting of $-CO_2H$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_3H_2$, and $-AsO_3H_2$.

[36.] 37. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [14] 15 wherein the active substance is selected from the group consisting of 4-aminobenzoic acid, 2-aminobenzoic acid, 4-aminophenylsulfonic acid, 2-aminophenylsulfonic acid, 4-aminophenylphosphonic acid, 2-aminophenylphosphonic acid, 4-aminophenylarsonic acid, and 2-aminophenylarsonic acid.

[37.] 38. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [14] 15 wherein the active substance is selected from the group consisting of a deoxyuridine, a deoxycytidine, a cytosine arabinoside, a 5-fluorouracil, a 5-fluorodeoxyuridine, and an azidothymidine.

[38.] 39. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [15] 16 wherein the photoactive [substance] compound comprises a porphyrine.

[39.] 40. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [15] 16 wherein the photoactive compound is selected from the group consisting of a chlorine and a bacteriochlorine.

[41.] 42. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [17, 25 or 26] 18, 26 or 27, wherein the aromatic group comprises a phenylene.

[42.] 43. (Amended) The conjugate of Claim [17, 25 or 26] 18, 26 or 27, wherein the aromatic group comprises a derivative of phenylene.